

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION

ROBERT J. RAY

PLAINTIFF

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:15-cv-380-CWR-FKB

KINO REESE, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

On May 22, 2014, Plaintiff Robert J. Ray filed a complaint in this Court, alleging that a wrongful conviction in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, resulted in a violation of his civil rights. On June 2, 2015, Plaintiff filed a Motion to Proceed In Forma Pauperis [5] requesting that the prepayment of the filing fee and costs be waived pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915.¹

After a review of the sworn Financial Affidavit filed with the Court, it is the opinion of the undersigned that Plaintiff is not indigent under the law and should not be allowed to proceed in forma pauperis. Plaintiff has a job and a monthly retirement income, and he owns a vehicle and pays a \$232.00 per month cable bill.

Section 28 U.S.C. §1915(a)(1) is intended to provide access to federal courts for plaintiffs who lack the financial resources to pay any part of the statutory filing costs. See Williams v. Estelle, 681 F.2d 946 (5th Cir. 1982); Prows v. Kastner, 842 F.2d 138 (5th Cir. 1988). This Court, in exercising its discretion, has considered the following factors:

Is the plaintiff barred from the federal courts by reason of his impecuniosity? Souder v. McGuire, 516 F.2d 820 (3rd Cir. 1975);

Is access to the courts blocked by the imposition of an undue

¹On May 22, 2015, Plaintiff filed a short form application, seeking leave to proceed in forma pauperis. [2]. Subsequently, the Court ordered Plaintiff to file a long form application by June 15, 2015. [3].

hardship? Startti v. United States, 415 F.2d 1115 (5th Cir. 1969); and,

Is the plaintiff forced to contribute his last dollar, or render himself destitute to prosecute his claim? Adkins v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., 335 U.S. 331, 337 (1941).

Considering the circumstances of Plaintiff, including the fact that he has a motor vehicle and a monthly income from both work and retirement, and particularly the fact that he pays a \$232.00 per month cable bill, the undersigned finds that he could pay the filing costs without undue financial hardship if given ninety days to pay the filing fee. Plaintiff will not be rendered destitute by paying the filing fee in ninety days, as he does have a place to reside, a motor vehicle, and a monthly income. Because he will not be barred from the federal courts due to his lack of financial resources, it is the recommendation of the undersigned that Plaintiff's motion to proceed in forma pauperis be denied. Plaintiff shall be given ninety days to pay the filing fee in this cause; all of the costs associated with the filing of this lawsuit should be paid on or before September 7, 2015. If Plaintiff does not object to this recommendation, and further does not pay the filing fee by September 7, 2015, the undersigned recommends that this case be dismissed without prejudice with no further notice to Plaintiff.

Plaintiff is referred to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b) for the appropriate procedure in the event he desires to file objections to these findings and recommendations. Plaintiff is further notified that failure to file written objections to the proposed findings, conclusions, and recommendation contained within this report and recommendation within fourteen (14) days after being served with a copy shall bar him, except upon grounds of plain error, from attacking on appeal the unobjected-to proposed factual

findings and legal conclusions accepted by the district court. 28 U.S.C. §636; Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(as amended, effective December 1, 2009); Douglass v. United Services Automobile Association, 79 F.3d 1415, 1428-29 (5th Cir. 1996).

Respectfully submitted, this the 9th day of June, 2015.

/s/ F. Keith Ball
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE